

P R O C E E D I N G S

OF THE

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 2nd, 1969

Wild Life & Fisheries Building
400 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Reporter:
PAULA A. HILLIS



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P R O C E E D I N G S

....Pursuant to Notice, the Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was called to order at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, September 23, 1969, in Room 226, Old Civil Courts Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Mr. H. Clay Wright, Vice-Chairman presiding...

THERE WERE PRESENT:

MR. JOHN E. KYLE, JR.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON

MR. HOBSON NORRIS

MR. CLARENCE A. GUIDRY

MR. JAMES L. WINFREE

MR. CLARK HOFFPAUER, DIRECTOR

MR. R. K. YANCEY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

MR. JOE L. HERRING, CHIEF, FISH AND GAME

DIVISION

DR. L. S. ST. AMANT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

MR. TED O'NEIL, CHIEF, FUR DIVISION

MR. ROBERT LA FLEUR, CHIEF, WATER POLLUTION

CONTROL DIVISION



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WHO WERE PRESENT:

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MR. H. CLAY WRIGHT, Vice-Chairman

MR. J. L. WINFREE

MR. C. M. HOFFPAUER

MR. J. E. KYLE, JR.

MR. C. A. GUIDRY

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WHO WERE ABSENT:

MR. JERRY JONES, Chairman

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON

MR. HOBSON NORRIS



A G E N D A

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1. Consideration of Commission
concurrence with the Plaquemines
Parish Commission Council
Ordinance No. 104 dealing with
the closure of the hunting and
trapping seasons in Plaquemines
Parish.
2. Consideration of the request for
Dominick C. Rodosta to dredge
sand and/or fill material from
the Mississippi River opposite
Levee Station 5250 to 5300,
Iberville Parish, Louisiana.



P R O C E E D I N G S

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. . . . The Special Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, convened at 3:00 o'clock p.m., on Thursday, October 2nd, 1969 at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Mr. H. Clay Wright, Vice-Chairman, presiding

THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a special meeting called to study and come up with some kind of solution to the Plaquemines Parish hunting season of rabbit and deer and squirrels, and we have, in order, some representatives of the Sportmen's League. We also have with us the President of the Plaquemines Parish Council, Mr. Chalin Perez.

Mr. Perez, would you explain the ordinance that was passed about two weeks ago, please, sir, so that the rest of them will understand what the ordinance is as of right now.

MR. PEREZ: I think what I might do is to read the ordinance adopted September 25th, 1969.



The Plaquemines Parish Commission Council took the following action:

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"WHEREAS, the Hurricane Tidal Wave which accompanied Hurricane Camille on August 17, 1969, caused incalculable damage to deer, rabbits and squirrel and other game quadrupeds in the Parish of Plaquemines, almost to the point of extinction on both the east and west sides of the Parish of Plaquemines, and in order to preserve said quadrupeds it is necessary that a closed season be declared for the hunting of game quadrupeds for at least one year to give said animals a chance to repopulate,

THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council, that all hunting, shooting



or snaring in any manner of
game quadrupeds, except the
hunting of nutria and trapping
of fur bearing animals, be and
the same are hereby prohibited
during the 1969-70 hunting season,
and all persons are required to
observe this Ordinance, and

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MR. PEREZ: The Ordinance further goes
along to provide for a penalty provision. The
reason the Council adopted this Ordinance was because
of the fact that as most of you know we in
Plaquemines Parish have sustained in four years two
of the most devastating hurricanes in the history
of the United States.

We have been told by the United States
Corps of Engineers that Betsy was a one in a 150-year
occurrence and that Camille was a one in 1,000-year
occurrence. I know that the argument will be made
that some of the areas in Plaquemines Parish were
not affected and it is true that certain areas in the



parish have not lost appreciable numbers of game, particularly in the area from Pointe a la Hache going upriver on the east side and west of Pointe a la Hache or Port Sulphur going up the river on the west side.

Not only do we have the problem of the loss of our national wild life, but we also have a monumental task of trying to rebuild our parish. On both east and west sides of the river, we have just a two-lane highway leading in and out of the parish. We have trailers by the hundreds -- a total of 2,000. We have heavy oilfield equipment and the oil companies are trying to rebuild their facilities that have been lost. We have people that have to rebuild their homes. Our highways are terribly overtaxed already. As far as our Sheriff forces are concerned, we have had to call upon the State Police for additional help and we still have State Police down there.

We have a very critical problem with regard to law enforcement in our area. Now, if we open this area to hundreds and thousands of additional



people who will be coming in from the outside, it will cost untold additional problems and burdens upon our people. I just feel -- although we want to be as reasonable as we can and we want to share the bounties of Plaquemines Parish with our good friends from elsewhere, we feel it is most unreasonable to expect us to have to bear the burden of taking care of the problems which are created by the additional number of people coming into the parish and at the same time undertake this monumental task of rebuilding our parish. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, does anybody else want to say anything?

MR. SMITH: Gentlemen of the Commission, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Perez, my name is Smith, Clyde D. Smith.

I am serving as Chairman of the Council of Sportsmen's Clubs of Greater New Orleans. This is a group of seven clubs of organized sportsmen ranging from St. Bernard at the lower end to Bonnet Carre Gun Club on the upper end. These members of these clubs utilize, shall we say, Plaquemines Parish as



their recreational playground. Plaquemines Parish is so situated that so far as I personally am concerned, it has the best hunting and the best fishing in Louisiana. I, myself, hunt and fish down there exclusively. Many of us maintain camps in Plaquemines. Many of us lease acreage in Plaquemines for the privilege of hunting.

All of us realize that Plaquemines does have a problem. They have a big problem on their hands down there, and I think that it's safe to say that everyone of us is trying to cooperate with Plaquemines in solving the problems. Those of us who do utilize Plaquemines as, shall we say, a playground, do another thing. We contribute to the financial stability of the parish. We don't contribute like the companies down there with oil leases who pay directly into the Plaquemines Parish Treasury, but we do bring our money down there and our money does go to a lot of individuals down there who are in business.

We feel that the lower portion of Plaquemines definitely should be closed to all hunting. That portion of the parish which has suffered from



flood damage should be closed. We feel that Plaquemines Parish should come to the Commission here and request permission to close that lower end of the parish and in so doing then the Commission -- I should say the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission -- could assist the parish in the enforcement.

We feel that the portion of the parish which is undamaged should remain open. I think, Chalin, you will agree with me that the majority of the sportsmen who do go down there will be going down there for duck hunting. The vast, large majority of the people will be going down there for duck hunting, and I doubt very much that the influx of hunters who go down there for hunting rabbits, squirrel and deer will add very much congestion to the highway that is down there at the present time.

I made the statement that we, the sportsmen, were very much behind Plaquemines in trying to support Plaquemines, and there is some resentment on the part of some of the sportsmen insofar as Plaquemines' action is concerned, and unfortunately, I am hopeful that they are in the minority. To quote



one individual down in St. Bernard, a couple of weeks 11
ago when I got in the news that the parish had been
closed, parish-wide, he said the statement that --
he said, "Well, after the storm the boys down there
really needed a lot of help and we have been trying
to help them, but now they come along with a deal come along
like that. They are like the dog that bites the
hand that feeds him."

I sincerely hope that the sportsmen down
here don't take that attitude. We know that the
parish consciously is trying to do what they think is
right for them, but I sincerely hope that Plaquemines
will see fit to become just a little bit more lenient
for those of us who do spend our money down there,
for those of us who do maintain leases, for those of
us who do enjoy our hunting and fishing down there.
Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

MR. DAIGLE: Mr. Chairman and Mr. Perez,
my name is Daigle, Gene Daigle. I don't represent
any official sportsmen groups, but I do represent
hundreds of rabbit hunters who hunt yearly in



Plaquemines Parish, and let me say at the very outset that we agree 100% that the lower portions of the parish, the area that was flooded, should definitely be closed and off limits to all hunters. We have no objections whatsoever. We are in agreement with these people 100 per cent on this point, but our concern is that this is the only open area we have to hunt in in Plaquemines Parish.

We have a camp in the Empire area about five miles south of Empire. There was absolutely no flooding whatsoever in this area. We went down to the camp the day after the storm and there was absolutely no flooding whatsoever.

We have covered all of the area south of our camp that we normally hunt in and there was absolutely no high water at all in that area. We feel that in the areas that were not flooded, there was no damage to livestock, to animals, and we feel definitely these areas should remain open. We keep our beaglehounds all year round and this is the only time we can use them, and we don't think it's fair or sound reason to stop the rabbit hunters. We cannot see that we



are going to put an additional burden on Mr. Perez's troops. Contrarily, we feel that we are actually helping the people down there who need help the most. The man who runs the marina that we launch from suffered about three feet of water in his home. Now, he is counting on business to get him back on his feet. Fellows like us -- 10 or 12 in our camp and you can multiply that by at least 50 or 60 other camps in the area that were not flooded -- if he stops all of us from going down and contributing to this fellow's business, he is going to be in worse shape than he is today.

We feel definitely that those areas that are not flooded -- we should be allowed to hunt in those areas because this is the only area we hunt in. We spend our money as Clyde mentioned, and we do spend a lot of money in the course of a year at Plaquemines Parish, when you get three or four boats and 10 men, and by the time you buy gasoline and food, you are talking about \$80.00 to \$100.00 at least every weekend, so we do have something to contribute to Plaquemines and we don't feel we would be stopping or hindering



anyone because where we hunt, we are at least 15 or 20 miles from any populated area.

We feel strongly about this and hope that you gentlemen will think about this seriously and give us a chance to pursue our hunting. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else in opposition to the Plaquemines' resolution?

MR. DAIGLE: We've got a petition, Mr. Chairman, that we just started today. I would like to introduce this and I am sure we could get many, many more names of people who actually hunt down there.

MR. PEREZ: As far as petitions go, we could come up with some names, too.

Let me say that if there is any family in this State of Louisiana that love the sport of hunting or any greater sportsmen who love the sport of hunting more than the Perez family, I'd like to see them. We are very sympathetic with those who like to hunt, and we believe it is of the finest of sports, but on the other hand we still have to maintain that we have the problems that we have.

Now, one of the problems with regard



particularly to rabbit hunting is the fact that the seasons opens at least a month earlier than the duck hunting opens and this is a critical time that we have now with regard to traffic problems.

That is, we will have at least another month whereas we will have the thousands of trailers coming into the parish, where we will have the great job of rehabilitation work and that includes the entire Parish of Plaquemines, not just the lower ends because they have to travel through the upper ends of the parish to get to the lower ends.

You know, a remark was made which I frankly resent because it was talking of resentment towards Plaquemines Parish. Those of you who don't have to live with our problems can quickly talk about resentment. We in Plaquemines Parish have been grateful and thankful for the help that people from the outside have given us. We didn't request it, but we did accept it graciously.

I would hope that help that people give will not be turned as a baseball bat over someone's head to say, "We helped you, friends; now you help us."



If the giving was in that spirit, if you will tell me who it was that gave it, we will try to return it.

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In fact, I would like to go back to the fact that we do have the big problem of law enforcement. We have the problem that will require us to be using our Deputy Sheriffs who are working probably 12, 14 hours a day right now and the burden on them will be increased as a result of the influx of additional people -- those people that will be coming down hunting.

Now, I might say to you that I am not opposed and would be glad to try to work out some form of a compromise on this subject provided that some manner could be found to keep the people who do not have a legal right to be in the area out of the area. By that I mean that if there was some way that the Commission could find to set up a basis upon which the Parish of Plaquemines could issue permits to those who have the legal right to be on the property, that would limit the problem that we have. That would mean that only those who would have a



permit issued either by the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission or the Parish of Plaquemines, who can show evidence of their right to use a particular land for hunting and thus reduce our police problems, that we would be willing to go along with that, but we do

need in some way to control the terrible problem which we have every year which requires the use of so many of our deputies in trespassing and shooting into people's houses, and the other types of problems we have.

Now, I must admit that those areas of the parish where it can be established that there was no damage to wild life and as long as the egress from the higher part of the parish is not in the damaged area, that the objection there would not be as strong as it would be otherwise, but the greater part of your hunting of rabbits and deer is on the higher land of the parish and that's the primary reason that we would be opposed.

The early opening of these seasons are the two problems which we have which are so much greater than with duck hunting which will open a month later,



but I would suggest to you if there is some way that we can work out a system whereby people can evidence their right to be upon property so as to limit our police problems that we would be glad to entertain such a proposal.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Perez. Thank you, Mr.

Well, gentlemen, we have a quorum of the Commission now. Do we have any Commission members any of you want to --

MR. WINFREE: I'd like to say something, Mr. Chairman.

At the outset, this meeting was called primarily because different people and organizations that called upon our Director notified him of this Ordinance of Plaquemines Parish of September 25th. As you know, this Commission set the opening dates of rabbits and squirrels as October 4th to encompass the entire state, as well as I recall. Subsequently, this disaster hit Plaquemines Parish and subsequently, by the President of the United States, Plaquemines Parish was declared a Disaster Area. We didn't declare it. Plaquemines Parish didn't declare it.



It was declared by the United States -- the entire parish.

Now, this Commission would reserve the right to open or close any hunting seasons in this state.

That's what the Constitution tells us we have to do,

but, sir, in the face of what Plaquemines Parish has

suffered and certainly in the face of what Plaquemines

Parish's problems are and will be for several years

to come, I think that a spirit of cooperation between

the sportsmen of the Greater New Orleans Area and

Plaquemines Parish could probably blend together

closer than ever before, and I am real happy to think

that Mr. Perez is suggesting or even offering a

compromise and I am likewise happy that Mr. Smith

has also suggested such a compromise.

Gentlemen of the Commission, I feel that

in view of what we have heard that this Commission

and biologists -- after talking to our biologists

and knowing the amount of game that has been destroyed

in the area -- as an example, I heard Mr. Yancey say

where he was able to see four to 500 deer, he is only

able to see 80 now. So apparently the whole herd has



been wiped out or that is, it is not visible.

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I would feel like this Commission could adopt some type of resolution closing the season in an area south of Bohemia Spillway leaving the upper half of the parish open and something also should be worked out as to requiring of the permit.

Now, I know just two weeks ago you were unable to get into Plaquemines Parish without a permit. As those things opened up a little bit more, they have been a little more lenient, but they are faced with a problem down there. They are faced -- and certainly no sportsman would turn to looting, but there are other people who would go down there under the guise of sportsmen and break into camps that still exist down there and probably destroy them, because this happened to me, and so, I am not going to delay that any more, but gentlemen of the Commission, that's kind of the way I feel about this thing -- if this Commission could adopt some type of resolution to that effect.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Winfree, I agree with you a hundred per cent.



MR. KYLE: I am wondering if we ought to not set the opening of the season back some.

MR. WINFREE: I don't think that would be necessary.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Guidry, do you have any comment?

MR. GUIDRY: No. That is for this year only?

MR. WINFREE: Because of this being a Disaster Area and this is only for this one year. This is subject to review, of course.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Winfree, are you putting that in the form of a motion, or would you put it in the form of a motion, please, sir.

MR. WINFREE: I don't think it's ready for a motion yet, Mr. Chairman, because I would like first to pursue this idea of permits a little more.

Now, certainly this Commission is not in the position to issue any permits for hunters. When they buy that hunting license, that gives them the right to hunt anywhere in the State of Louisiana. However, certainly I would feel that Plaquemines



Parish has that right to issue those types of permits 22
whether they be from the Plaquemines Parish Council
or from the Sheriff's Office, or what the mechanics
would be I don't know, but certainly I would put it
in the form of a motion that this Commission go on
record as closing that season south of Bohemia,
closing the area south of Bohemia and remaining open
north, subject to permits issued by the Plaquemines
Parish Council which is the governing authority of the
parish.

THE CHAIRMAN: That would be on both sides
of the river?

MR. WINFREE: Yes, sir, unless there was
going to be a deviation on the west side of the river
further south from the Bohemia Spillway on the east
side of the river northward and on the west side of
the river at a line -- well, that would have to be
drawn here (indicating).

MR. HOFFPAUER: The east side of the river
is rather easy to define. There is some debate
whether this thing should be cut off on the Empire
Cut or up as high as Port Sulphur Canal. There is one



area down there at the mouth of the Empire Cut -- Shell Island, I believe, is the area, and there is some pretty good hunting in there, but then you get up against the river levee and the protection levee and that's where you run into trouble. You might entertain a motion about closing all of the area between the protection levee and the area -- the Mississippi River Levee in that area. That's where the trouble lies, isn't that right?

MR. PEREZ: May I suggest the way it might be worked out is to close the season inside of the back levee protection area from the -- I'd say the Delta Bank at Port Sulphur because beyond that point is where we had the flooding which is in the heart of Port Sulphur and outside of that area on a line upriver from the Empire to Gulf Waterway.

MR. HOFFPAUER: O.K. I called it the Empire Cut. That is what I called it.

MR. PEREZ: Well, it's called the Old Doullut Canal right at the river and from there it's designated by the United States Corps of Engineers as the Empire to Gulf Waterway, and any



area upriver from that particular area.

MR. HOFFPAUER: That would be real good.

MR. PEREZ: And then inside of the levee protection system, it would be closed from the Delta Bank at Port Sulphur downriver.

MR. WINFREE: Within the two protection levees?

MR. PEREZ: Between the two protection levees.

Does that take in the area you are talking about?

MR. DAIGLE: Yes.

MR. PEREZ: Anything below that, downriver from that, would be closed. Anything upriver from that would be open in the parish if the Commission so finds that in that area there was no substantial damage to wild life. I just don't know --

MR. WINFREE: That's subject to our biologists checking that.

MR. PEREZ: My general impression was that we didn't have a great deal of water in that area.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Perez, let me ask this



question just for the point of information.

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How far back is that back levee that the parish built?

MR. PEREZ: It is much inside of that.

Generally it would be anywhere from 10 to 15 acres from the river levee. You are talking about that narrow strip of land?

MR. WINFREE: How many acres are we talking about that are going to be closed?

MR. PEREZ: From Port Sulphur downriver, anywhere inside.

MR. WINFREE: How many acres are we closing?

MR. PEREZ: Oh just a few thousand -- three or four thousand. As far as the parish area is concerned, anything from the Empire to Gulf Canal downriver which, of course, did suffer a great deal of water.

MR. WINFREE: Well, of course, my motion is going to say that is to be closed.

MR. PEREZ: Right.

MR. WINFREE: I am ready to make a motion, Mr. Chairman, if you are ready for a motion.



THE CHAIRMAN: I am ready.

MR. WINFREE: I am going to withdraw --

THE CHAIRMAN: You want to withdraw your first one?

MR. WINFREE: I am going to withdraw the motion to first motion I made and move that this Commission due to the disaster area of Plaquemines Parish and due to the cooperation of Plaquemines Parish Council and New Orleans Greater Sportmen's League, that this Commission close the season in an area on the east side of the Mississippi River from Bohemia Spillway south to the hunting of squirrels, rabbits, and deer.

On the west side of the river, that lying south of the -- it would be what I call Fisherman's Canal -- what did you call it?

MR. PEREZ: Empire to Gulf Waterway.

MR. WINFREE: The area south of the Empire Gulf Waterway be closed, likewise the area between the Delta Bank at Port Sulphur, Louisiana, and Empire line between the back levee and the front levee be closed.

Now, you all get the idea of what I am



saying and then it can be drafted further. And that area lying north of Empire Canal all the way upward, would be open for hunting.

MR. PEREZ: But with the permit provision.

MR. WINFREE: With the permit provision.

I don't mean Bohemia -- I mean the Courthouse at Pointe a la Hache.

MR. PEREZ: That's correct, it is called Bohemia -- the upper end of it.

MR. WINFREE: Let the record reflect that Mr. Yancey knows what I am talking about and that he will put in the details.

MR. HOFFPAUER: For some of the press people here, do you understand we want to write it out for you before you print it because there is a little difference in the east side boundary? We will define it better for you before you print it.

MR. PEREZ: May I suggest that it's easier defined in saying where the back arc protection levee meets the river, where the back arc levee comes into the Mississippi River. That is the point which is generally the upper end of the Bohemia



Plantation.

MR. HOFFPAUER: You just don't want the end of the road at Bohemia?

MR. PEREZ: Well, that is the end of the road -- same spot.

MR. HOFFPAUER: That is easier to define. It is easier to

MR. WINFREE: That's my motion, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DAIGLE: Just could we -- could the Wild Life draw up a map and shade in the area and have these available at wild life or sporting goods stores so the sportsmen can see where we can and can't hunt?

MR. HOFFPAUER: We will make them out.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear a second?

MR. KYLE: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Kyle.

Any discussion on the motion?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor of the motion say aye. All opposed by the same sign. There being none, it is carried.



MR. PEREZ: May I give this information to the -- the Plaquemines Parish Council who have a meeting tomorrow in which we will consider the readoption of our Ordinance to go along with the action that was taken today and we will be able to set up these permits and either at Belle Chase either at Bel Permit Office where we issue all other permits or at the Pointe a la Hache Courthouse and we will set up a permit system in that fashion.

MR. HOFFPAUER: The way this motion stands now, you closed the water fowl season, so maybe there ought to be a little amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, we didn't close the water fowl season, just rabbit, squirrels and deer.

Gentlemen, we have another --

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, may I make one comment?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, at the mike, please.

MR. SMITH: Gentlemen, I repeat, my name is Clyde D. Smith, Chairman of the Council of Sportmen Clubs of Greater New Orleans and I want to publicly thank Mr. Perez on behalf of the 3,000



organized sportsmen who make up the Council of Sportsmen Clubs and this action will certainly put some individuals in their place, some of these diehards over whom we have no control.

Thank you very much, Chalin.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Smith, I would like to suggest that you get your leagues and so forth to adopt a resolution and send it to Plaquemines Parish Council because they like to hear nice things also, not just the President of that Council, and let it be known that they cooperated with you and you have cooperated with them and us, and the Commission here. We are just trying to do the best we can.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, Doc St. Amant, will you come to the mike, please.

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, we have a request from Dominick C. Rodosta to dredge sand and/or fill material from the Mississippi River opposite Levee Station 5250 to 5300 in Iverville.

This is an application from Mr. Rodosta asking to dredge 75,000 cubic yards of sand or fill material



from the Mississippi River in order to furnish such material for an industrial site in Iberville Parish. This application meets all the requirements set forth by the Commission and it is recommended that a permit be granted dredging such amount of material to meet this requirement at which time the permit will expire.

landin, you heard. Gent. THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you heard. Gentlemen, vo

MR. KYLE: I so move.

MR. WINFREE: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Kyle; seconded by Mr. Winfree. All in favor say aye. All opposed by the same sign.

There being none, it is carried.

Doc, will you give us a little talk, I guess that's what you can call it, on the shrimp, on all the controversy.

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman, the controversy is -- I think it involves much fewer people than you might imagine. There are one group of people who feel that they could commercially use shrimp that are illegal in size at the present time and they know that these shrimp will discontinue growth when the water temperature is dropped below 70 degrees



Fahrenheit.

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This is not a new problem. We have it each year. The magnitude of the problem varies depending on how late the shrimp happen to come in. This year they are rather late and we do have a rather good crop and our field biologists tell us that they are still growing at a pretty good rate and as long as the water is above 70 degrees, they should be given an opportunity to reach their maximum size.

Just prior to this meeting, I contacted some people with the Shrimp Association and in the area in question where the problem is they assured me that this problem is a localized one and it does not represent the entire industry.

Our enforcement personnel indicate that they have examined some of the catches. They can't find any real evidence that a great many shrimp are being wasted through a culling process. I would suggest that we continue to enforce the shrimp size to the best of our ability until these shrimp at least meet all the growth requirements that they can while the water temperatures are high.



I would suggest that this Commission entertain an idea that we approach the Legislature perhaps to give us some relief with respect to shrimp sizes in the fall because we do run into problems when we have late crops and we have water conditions that prevent shrimp growth.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Doctor. Thank you, Dr.

Anyone have comments? Comments?

MR. HOFFPAUER: Lyle, if we were to take the size off of the whites, what would be the effect on the population? Would it have any effect now? It would have an effect on the later catch, I know, but I just --

DR. ST. AMANT: We have maintained all the time that the size limit has no biological basis. Shrimp are an annual crop. They are produced every year and it makes little difference to the shrimp whether he is killed at 60 millimeters or 90 millimeters or 120 millimeters. The law as it exists today is one that was put on the statutes or in the books by the industry itself, and apparently a great majority of the industry thinks that a size limit on



shrimp is beneficial to them economically or for some other purpose. We have never maintained that it was a biological reason behind it. It is just simply this: You have so many millions of shrimp in the nursery ground now. They are averaging perhaps 100 to 120 count per pound. If you catch them at this time, your total poundage will be less than if you give them an opportunity to grow until they are 60 count or 40 count. At any time that you catch them at this small size, there are going to be some too small for marketing or for general use and I guess this is considered a waste, but by and large, there is no other way to handle it. Taking the size off won't hurt the shrimp. It may hurt the industry or it may hurt certain segments of the industry, but it's not going to hurt the shrimp population.

MR. HOFFPAUER: I just wanted to make that clear.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

DR. ST. AMANT: But we can't take the size off.

MR. HOFFPAUER: That's -- it is a legislative



law.

DR. ST. AMANT: It's a legislative law unless we can figure some way for them to do it.

MR. WINFREE: Isn't it true that you told me one day the shrimp is legal at 68 to the pound and then the next day at 85 to the pound is legal?

DR. ST. AMANT: Yes, sir, this is how the law reads and it is not very --

MR. WINFREE: But based on that, how do you expect us to satisfy every shrimper in this whole State of Louisiana? We know where the shrimp are. We know the size, but we can't distribute them to all the people and just before I came here from Baton Rouge, I came in contact with a man from Jefferson Parish saying there was not enough shrimp in Lake Pontchartrain. What are we supposed to do -- go put some out there?

DR. ST. AMANT: No, and I'm sorry. He must not be a very good shrimper because I think Lake Pontchartrain had a few more shrimp than normal. You are correct. The law is really hard to live with and it doesn't make a good workable situation because



in the spring, in May, there is no size on the shrimp and on July 15th, you have legal shrimp of any size and on the 16th of July, the shrimp that was legal the day before may become illegal the next day because it has to be a 68 count.

This is a little difficult to explain. And we go along until November and the law does something else even a little more drastic. It says that after November 20th, brown shrimp shall have no size on them, but white shrimp shall retain a 68 count. Now, the two shrimp are in the water at the same time. The nets are non-selective and the fisherman is catching them and one shrimp has to be 68 and the other doesn't have to have a size on it. Well, it makes enforcement a little bit difficult under those circumstances.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Doc.

Any other business to come before the Commission?

MR. WINFREE: If not, Mr. Chairman, I move adjournment.

MR. KYLE: I second.



. . . . Whereupon, the Special
Board Meeting of the Louisiana
Wild Life & Fisheries Commission
was adjourned at 4:15 o'clock
p.m., on Tuesday, October 2nd,
1969



C E R T I F I C A T E

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I, Paula A. Hillis do hereby certify
that the above and foregoing is a true and correct
transcription of the stenographic (Stenotype) notes
taken down by me and transcribed by me, or under my supervision, at the
time and place hereinbefore noted, in the above-
entitled cause.

Paula A. Hillis

Reporter

